

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 25, 1896.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. KYLE, from the Committee on Indian Depredations, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 229.]

The Committee on Indian Depredations, to whom was referred the bill (S. 229) for the relief of Robert McGee, report the same favorably to the Senate, with recommendation for its passage, and adopt as their report the statements and report made by the committee during the Fifty-second Congress:

Considering the large number of affidavits presented, there seems to be no question as to the helpless condition of the claimant, Mr. McGee, or as to the statements made that he received his injuries at the hands of roaming bands of the Sioux tribe of Indians. In the judgment of your committee the Secretary of the Interior, after hearing the arguments pro and con, can safely be trusted under the provisions of the bill to pay this man from such funds of the moneys of the Sioux Nation as may be available.

[Senate Report No. 1230, Fifty-second Congress, second session.]

Your committee, to whom was referred Senate bill 3582, respectfully report the same favorably with amendments.

It appears that in July, 1864, a supply train started from Fort Leavenworth, Kans., for Fort Union, N. Mex., in charge of one J. L. Riggs. When they had arrived at the Great Bend of the Arkansas River, Walnut Creek Station, Kans., the party was attacked by a band of the Brulé Sioux Indians under the leadership of the chief, Little Turtle. The massacre which followed was one of the most bloody, nearly all being killed or wounded. Of those wounded was one Robert McGee, now of Excelsior Springs, Mo., a boy, being then about 15 years of age, who was pierced by ten arrows, scalped, and tomahawked in a most brutal manner. He was taken to Fort Larned where, by the skill of physicians and careful nursing, he was partially restored to health, though suffering greatly from contusions of the skull, which have made his life a struggle against suffering to the present time.

The statements here made as to his identity and present condition are supported by the affidavits of many reliable citizens who knew him then and who know him now. Among these are Hulbert H. Clark, M. D., of Santa Cruz, Cal., attending surgeon of hospital at Fort Larned, Kans., in 1864, and who cared for Mr. McGee. He says:

"In the matter of Robert McGee, I, Hulbert H. Clark, M. D., a resident of Santa Cruz, Cal., hereby certify that while in the United States service as acting assistant surgeon, being stationed at Fort Larned, Kans., as post surgeon, did, on or about the 16th day of July, 1864, receive into the United States post hospital Robert McGee, a

boy about 16 years old, who had been wounded in numerous places, including the almost complete (entire) removal of the scalp, his wounds and injuries being inflicted by the Brulé Sioux Indians led by Chief Little Turtle, in their attack upon a Government supply train, then en route westward, being on the day of the attack which, I believe, was July 14, 1864, at or near the Great Bend of the Arkansas River, from which point the wounded reached Fort Larned two days later. The said Robert McGee remained in my charge about three months, during which time he was visited by General Curtis, who instructed me to give him special care; also gave McGee an order on the quartermaster for such clothing as was necessary for his comfort.

"When he left the hospital he was very weak and fully two-thirds of the surface of the skull was not healed, being covered by a very delicate coat of granulation and which bled upon the slightest friction; also a wound of the left elbow and in left groin was still open. How he survived is unaccountable. When he reached the hospital he was unconscious from shock, loss of blood, and want of food. It was several days before he could whisper so as to be understood. He was handled by raising him in the sheet, his many wounds—some fourteen in number—about chest, arms, and abdomen, prevented us grasping in the ordinary manner. I have not seen him since he left Fort Larned."

"I made a report of all the cases that came to my charge at that time, making McGee's special because of his youth and its severity. I have no interest in any claim he may make upon any department of the United States Government.

"H. H. CLARK, M. D.,

"Ex-Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. Army."

"Subscribed and sworn to before me this 29th day of November, 1892.

"ED. MARTIN, *Clerk.*

"By D. J. MILLER, *Deputy.*"

Other affidavits of a like character are furnished by Nathan Swan, of Klover, Colo.; James L. Riggs and Martin Brown, of Pike County, Mo.; D. B. Gresham, of Meridan, Kans.; Miss Martha Sapp, of Wyandotte, Kans.; Jasper A. Hanna, of Brunswick, Mo., who was a private soldier at Fort Larned, and acted as nurse to Mr. McGee during his sickness; J. R. Tunks, of Caldwell, Mo., who also acted as nurse for a short period. A letter from Mr. Belt, Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs, under date of November 7, 1892, states that, under treaties of April 8, 1868, and agreements of February 28, 1877, and March 2, 1889, the Brulé Sioux Indians, of Rosebud Agency, S. Dak., were made sharers of the beneficiary appropriations made to the Sioux Nation.

Your committee, therefore, recommend the passage of the bill as amended, so as to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to investigate the claim of Mr. McGee for \$10,000 compensation for his injuries, and to pay the same, if just and equitable, from the interest money due the Sioux Nation.

